

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MANAMA 001867

SIPDIS

NSC FOR DEPUTY NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR HADLEY

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/07/2014

TAGS: [PREL](#) [MARR](#) [KDEM](#) [PGOV](#) [BA](#) [IR](#)

SUBJECT: DEPUTY NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR HADLEY'S DECEMBER
4 MEETING WITH BAHRAINI CROWN PRINCE SALMAN

Classified by Ambassador William T. Monroe for reasons 1.4
(b) and (d).

Summary

1. (C) Deputy National Security Advisor Hadley met with Bahraini Crown Prince Salman December 4 on the margins of the IISS Gulf Security Dialogue conference in Manama. DNSA Hadley praised Bahrain's leadership role in the G8 Broader Middle East reform initiative, and noted the President's desire for progress in Israel/Palestinian peace negotiations. The Crown Prince stated that the international community has to communicate its model of a just society to counteract Al Qaida's dangerous ideas. DNSA Hadley requested financial support for the Palestinian Authority to ensure its viability following the January elections. The Crown Prince raised the increase in U.S. troops on the ground in Iraq, and DNSA Hadley said that this was a temporary measure to increase security during the Iraqi election period but that in the long term Iraqis would comprise a larger percentage of the troop strength. The CP said that Bahrain would support an Iraqi decision to delay the elections, but the Iraqis had not decided to do this. Turning to Bahrain, the CP said that Bahrain had arrested the terrorist suspects to disrupt a plot to attack before the U.S. elections. He could not predict what the court might decide in the case against the four suspects. End Summary.

Leader in Middle East Reform

2. (C) DNSA Hadley opened the December 4 meeting by thanking the Crown Prince for his comments in the IISS Gulf Security Dialogue conference, particularly about the U.S. seeking to help those interested in political and economic reform in the Middle East. The President believes strongly in the G8 Broader Middle East and North Africa initiative and recognizes Bahrain's leadership role. The President sees a strategic opportunity to achieve progress in the Israel/Palestine issue. The Crown Prince pointed out his view that the U.S. tends to talk privately to Israel but publicly to the Arabs. The U.S. is in the process of reassessing its approach and is looking for the best way to move ahead.

3. (C) The Crown Prince said Bahrain recognizes that maintaining security in an interdependent world requires close coordination and communication. If there are concerns, we have to address them right away and eliminate any misunderstanding. Al Qaida is propagating dangerous ideas and we cannot let the terrorists bring us to our knees. We know we have a more just model of how we should live, and we have to promote this model.

Financial Support for PA

4. (C) DNSA Hadley said the PA is strapped for cash and that Finance Minister Fayyad is under pressure each month to pay salaries. The international community should come together to ensure that the PA is more financially viable following the January 9 elections. Foreign Minister Mohammed bin Mubarak Al Khalifa interjected that Mahmoud Abbas needs all the help he can get. PM Sharon did not give him a chance to succeed when Abbas was prime minister. On the financial side, donors look at all the money that was given for schools and other infrastructure projects, and it all was destroyed. Some people ask why they should help again. He said, however, "we in the Gulf are ready to help Abbas" to give him a chance to succeed. In response to the Crown Prince's question, DNSA Hadley replied that Hamas appears strong but the PA security forces might be able to address the threat if they cooperated and strengthened their capabilities. The CP said that Hamas is popular in Gaza because it provides better services than the PA and is not corrupt.

Al Qaida Allied with Baathists

15. (C) DNSA Hadley said that the U.S. and its allies had eliminated 75 percent of Al Qaida's leadership. Local groups associated with Al Qaida now have much looser affiliations than was the case previously, and they do not have the capacity to carry out a huge attack like 9/11. In Iraq, Al Qaida may be allying itself with the Baathists, and our goal should be to isolate them from the rest of the Iraqi population. The Crown Prince mentioned that the U.S. was increasing the number of troops on the ground in the lead up to the January 30 elections, and agreed that this was necessary. DNSA Hadley said that this was for a temporary period only and Iraqis would eventually comprise a larger percentage of the troop strength in the country, but this takes time. U.S. forces in Iraq currently are a source of both security and insecurity.

16. (C) DNSA Hadley suggested that Iraq's immediate priority should be to get Iraqi Sunnis to participate in the upcoming Iraqi elections. Though some had been encouraging the U.S. to delay the elections, Hadley pointed out that this is an Iraqi decision, not an American one. The Crown Prince responded that Bahrain would support an Iraqi decision to delay, but the Iraqis have not said this yet. DNSA Hadley noted that the Shia want elections on time and delaying them could cause a real dilemma. PM Alawi would have to decide what he wants to do.

Case Against Bahraini Terrorist Suspects

17. (C) Regarding combating terrorism, DNSA Hadley said that we must cooperate and share intelligence. When we find bad guys, we have to keep them in custody and use the legal process against them. In the case of Bahrain, we are aware that there are many pressures, but we are concerned about the arrest and release of terrorist suspects and the message this sends. The CP replied that he understood the United States had been most interested in disrupting an attack prior to the U.S. elections. The GOB had heard the U.S. say that Bahrain might or might not find something to use against the terrorists; the important thing was to disrupt the plot. The Crown Prince said that Bahrain had found only what was on the suspects' personal computers and nothing else. When Bahrain locks someone away, it must be for a good reason. At best, the suspects could be sentenced to three years in prison; at worst, they could get time served. The most dangerous suspect is behind bars for six months for having fled the court during a September hearing. The CP said he could not predict what the court might do to the four suspects. The U.S. should see that Bahrain is doing the best it can within the rule of law. The suspects are under tight surveillance and should not be cause for worry.

18. (C) In closing, DNSA Hadley alluded to U.S. concerns about a possible retreat from the GOB's commitment to political free speech and human rights, saying that Washington valued Bahrain's leading role in this field and hoped that it would be maintained. The CP took the point.

19. (U) Baghdad minimize considered.

110. (C) The NSC cleared this message.

MONROE